

On Keeping Secrets

Given that the Reagan administration has made something of a fetish of secrecy, what do you suppose its reaction would be to reports that included the following information?

► The Central Intelligence Agency has been bolstered by more than 1,200 employees since 1980, including 800 added to its covert action arm.

► Both the CIA and the Pentagon have set up special anti-terrorist teams and the former has established a new terrorist evaluation center which, among other things, relies on information exchanges with agents from both Israel and Israel's enemy, Jordan.

► The CIA is actively supporting 12,000 to 15,000 Nicaraguan rebels (with slightly more than 20 people rather than the 500 as has been reported).

► The U.S. is also helping anti-

government forces in Afghanistan and Kampuchea (and possibly Angola).

These and other tidbits of the U.S. government's covert activities were recently reported in *The Wall Street Journal*. But if there have been no cries that the report compromised national security or otherwise violated a need for secrecy, there is a reason: The information came from an interview with an "authoritative government source" who agreed to be quoted on "the condition he would not be identified."

None of this should be construed, of course, as an indication that the Reagan administration is any less interested in cracking down on leakers and on journalists who print leaked material. Some leakers are better than others. Or putting it another way, when it comes to secrecy, the Reagan administration likes it both ways.

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